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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNESCO, OCON

SUBJECT: UNESCO 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE: SUMMARY WRAP
UP OF IMPORTANT PROGRAM ISSUES

SUMMARY: THE PURPOSE OF THIS CABLE IS TO PROVIDE A
BALANCE SHEET OF THE NAIROBI CONFERENCE FROM THE POINT
OF VIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE PROGRAMMATIC AREAS,
WHICH TOO OFTEN TEND TO BE OVERSHADOWED BY POLITICAL
DEEDS AND RHETORIC THAT USUALLY CAPTURE PRESS HEADLINES.
THE FACT IS THAT THE DELIBERATIONS IN THE PROGRAMMATIC
AREAS (I.E., SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND CULTURE) WENT
RATHER SMOOTHLY, MOSTLY WITHOUT MUCH POLITICAL OVERTONES,
THUS MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO (I)
MAKE A MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION IN THE SUBSTANTIVE
DISCUSSION OF UNESCO PROGRAM, (II) ADVANCE OUR POSITION
OF INFLUENCE IN UNESCO PROGRAM SECTORS, AND (III)
ACHIEVE MOST OF OUR PROGRAM OBJECTIVES. MUCH OF THE
CREDIT FOR THESE SOLID ACCOMPLISHMENTS GOES TO THE
PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS (MOSTLY ADVISORS) OF US DELEGATION,
ALL OF WHOM HAD PRIOR, FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE WITH
UNESCO AFFAIRS. END OF SUMMARY.

I. IN FIELD OF EDUCATION

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1. MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR EDUCATION AND DRAFT PROGRAM
AND BUDGET FOR 1977-78. U.S. POSITIONS REGARDING
THE FINANCING OF EDUCATION, INCLUDING EDUCATIONAL POLICY
AND PLANNING, EDUCATIONAL STRUCTURES, CONTENT AND
METHODS; HIGHER EDUCATION, AND TRAINING OF EDUCATIONAL
PERSONNEL WERE NOTED AND STATED IN RAPPOREUR'S REPORT
TO PLENARY, AND -- WHERE APPROPRIATE -- IN GUIDANCE
NOTES FOR THE 20 C/4 DOCUMENT. IN PARTICULAR, THE U.S.
DELEGATION WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN (A) FACILITATING
ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONCEPT OF IMPROVED DELIVERY OF
CONSULTANT SERVICES; (B)
OBTAINING RECOGNITION OF NEED TO SHARPEN FOCUS IN
UNESCO'S TRAINING PROGRAMS AND TO LIMIT PRIORITIES IN
THE STRUCTURES, CONTENT AND METHODS AREAS; (C) ASSURING
THAT ADULT EDUCATION WOULD BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF
LIFELONG EDUCATION AND LEARNING; AND (D) OBTAINING
COMMITMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT THAT THE 20 C/4
(MEDIUM-TERM PLAN) AND 20 C/5 (PROGRAM AND BUDGET)
DOCUMENTS WOULD INCLUDE INCREASED RESOURCES IN FIELDS
OF PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION, EDUCATION FOR THE HANDI-
CAPPED AND TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

2. TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: US PRESENTED DRAFT
RESOLUTION ON TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL EDUCATION. BECAUSE
THIS DR REQUIRED A MODIFICATION TO THE 19 C/5 WORK
PLAN RATHER THAN TO THE SECTION 1.16 RESOLUTION, THE DR
WAS PREVENTED FROM COMING TO A VOTE. HOWEVER, BECAUSE
OF INTENSE PRESSURE BY US DELEGATION AND SUPPORT FROM
MANY DEVELOPING AND OTHER DEVELOPED NATIONS, SECRE-
TARIAT AGREED TO MODIFY ITS 1977-78 WORK PLAN TO IN-
CLUDE THE PROVISIONS OF THE DR. IN ADDITION, THE
SECRETARIAT HAS AGREED TO INCLUDE A NEW SUB-OBJECTIVE

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FOR TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN THE 20 C/4
DOCUMENT.

3. ADULT EDUCATION. IN THE JUNE 1976 ADULT EDUCATION CONFERENCE US MADE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE DRAFTING OF THE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADULT EDUCATION. U.S. POSITIONS WERE MAINTAINED IN FINAL VERSION OF RECOMMENDATION AS PASSED BY THIS UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE. THE UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF THE RECOMMENDATION IS A TRIBUTE TO THE HIGH QUALITY OF WORK WHICH WAS ACCOMPLISHED AT THE ADULT EDUCATION CONFERENCE BY MANY MEMBER STATES, AND PARTICULARLY THAT OF THE US DELEGATION. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS RECOMMENDATION BY MEMBER STATES WILL STRENGTHEN ADULT EDUCATION AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THEIR EDUCATION SYSTEMS.

4. PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT. PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT HAS BECOME A HIGH-PRIORITY PROGRAM IN UNESCO BECAUSE OF INTEREST AND SUPPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL. THE RESOLUTION ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT APPROVED BY THE 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE HAS THE POTENTIAL OF FACILITATING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THESE AREAS, BUT COULD EASILY BE USED AS A VEHICLE FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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POLITICAL PROPAGANDA. AT THIS GENERAL CONFERENCE THE US AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL IN ELIMINATING PARA 4 (IV) CONCERNING THE FORMULATION OF GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS. THEY WERE SUCCESSFUL, HOWEVER, IN HAVING THE LANGUAGE MODIFIED TO ASSURE THAT UNESCO COULD ONLY ACT ON THE FORMULATION OF SUCH GUIDELINES AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. BECAUSE OF CONCERN BY WESTERN NATIONS OVER ALLEGED EASTERN BLOC INTENT TO USE THE CHARTER ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR FURTHERING STATE CONTROL OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS, AND THE GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL SPORTING COMPETITIONS TO REDUCE THE AUTHORITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC

COMMITTEE AND OTHER CONCERNED INTERNATIONAL BODIES, THIS SUBJECT HAS RECEIVED MORE ATTENTION IN UNESCO THAN WOULD BE AFFORDED NORMALLY TO ANY ONE PROGRAM. THE U.S. WAS ELECTED TO THE INTERIM INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT AS A RESULT OF STRONG LOBBYING AND NEGOTIATING AMONG WESTERN NATIONS. THIS PROGRAM MUST BE MONITORED CAREFULLY TO ASSURE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHARTER ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT DOES NOT BECOME ANOTHER "MASS MEDIA DECLARATION" PROBLEM.

5. INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF EDUCATION (IBE). THE IBE PROGRAM RECEIVED OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FROM MEMBER STATES. PRAISE WAS RENDERED FOR BOTH ITS EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION NETWORK (50 PERCENT OF ITS DATA BANK IS SUPPLIED BY THE US) AND THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL REPORTING SERVICE WHICH IS PARTIALLY SUPPORTED BY USAID. INTENSE LOBBYING AND SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATING WITH OTHER WESTERN NATIONS BY THE US DELEGATION HELPED MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE US TO BE ELECTED TO THE IBE COUNCIL. ELECTION OF THE US TO THE COUNCIL IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO US INTERESTS AT THIS TIME DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING IN JANUARY 1977 WILL NOMINATE A SHORT-LIST OF CANDIDATES TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR THE DIRECTORSHIP OF IBE.

6. IN SUM, US POSITIONS ON EDUCATION AGENDA ITEMS WERE UNCLASSIFIED

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STATED AND ACCEPTED IN THE DECISIONS MADE AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. DURING THE NEXT BIENNIUM THE US PERMDEL WILL SYSTEMATICALLY MONITOR THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY UNESCO AS A RESULT OF THESE DECISIONS. THE US WILL FACE SOME DIFFICULT PROBLEMS IN MAINTAINING ITS INFLUENCE DURING THIS PERIOD. THESE PROBLEMS AND PERMDEL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OVERCOMING THOSE PROBLEMS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE AIRGRAM.

II. IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCES

1. SCIENCE INFORMATION. THE MAJOR PROBLEM IN THE SCIENCE INFORMATION AREA WAS THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNESCO GENERAL INFORMATION PROGRAM, AND A NUMBER OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS BEARING ON THE ISSUE WERE INTRODUCED. IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM THE DELIBERATIONS THAT MOST COUNTRIES FACED THE SAME PROBLEM AS THE UNITED STATES-- A DICHOTOMY BETWEEN THE WISHES OF THEIR SCIENCE INFORMATION

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PEOPLE AND THE LIBRARIANS/ARCHIVISTS. A DRAFTING COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSION III (OF WHICH US WAS A MEMBER) WAS, FORTUNATELY, ABLE TO COME UP WITH A COMPROMISE RESOLUTION THAT WAS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL. LOBBYING ON THIS ISSUE WAS INTENSE, NOT THE LEAST FROM THE LIBRARIAN/ARCHIVIST COMMUNITY IN THE U.S.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT (SPINES) ISSUE WAS DEFUSED BY THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN DELEGATIONS BY LIMITING IT TO A PILOT PROJECT FOR THE NEAR FUTURE AND BY CALLING FOR A CONFERENCE OF LDC'S TO DETERMINE THEIR REAL NEEDS FOR S&T POLICY INFORMATION.

2. GENERAL SCIENCE. THERE WERE NO GREAT THORNS IN THIS AREA ON THE AGENDA. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S PROPOSAL FOR A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY YEAR SAILED THROUGH WITHOUT MAJOR OPPOSITION.

THE SOVIET PROPOSAL NOT TO ALLOW REGIONAL BODIES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (IOC) GREATER AUTONOMY WAS HANDILY DEFEATED. THE
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SHORT-TERM BENEFITS OF THIS DECISION TO THE U.S. ARE READILY VISIBLE; HOWEVER, IT COULD WORK TO OUR DETRIMENT IN THE FUTURE IN AREAS WHERE THE U.S. IS NOT PRESENTLY A MEMBER OF THE "IN-GROUP". IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT NOT ONLY DID THE USSR DELEGATION WITHDRAW QUICKLY FROM ITS POSITION, BUT IN THE COMPRISE (WORKED OUT BY THE SECRETARIAT) CONCURRED IN A STATEMENT THAT WENT BEYOND THE ORIGINAL STATEMENT IN 19 C/5.

THE ONLY LENGTHY US INTERVENTION THAT WAS MADE IN THE SCIENCE AREA WAS THE OPENING STATEMENT PRESENTED BY PROFESSOR ART SOLOMON, WHO ALSO ELECTED AS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSION I. IN HIS STATEMENT, DR. SOLOMON SUGGESTED THREE NEW INITIATIVES, VIZ.: (1) FELLOWSHIPS IN REGIONAL CENTERS FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (2) UNESCO-ICSU PRIZE FELLOWSHIPS FOR SCIENTISTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND (3) THE PREPARATION OF A WORLD ATLAS OF NATURE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH. HE ALSO CONVEYED THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ENGINEERING EDUCATION OF PRIORITY AREAS IN ENGINEERING EDUCATION THAT HE DISCUSSED UNDER THE RUBRIC OF TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION. DR. SOLOMON'S ADDRESS WAS WELL RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES. USDEL STATEMENT ON MAB ECHOED OPTIMISTIC STATEMENT ON THE PROGRAM MADE BY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL. IT NOTED THAT U.S. SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY CONSIDERS MAB TO OFFER ONE OF THE BEST AVENUES WITHIN THE FAMILY OF UNESCO NATURAL SCIENCES PROGRAMS FOR FRUITFUL INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND. IT NOTED THAT US EXPECTS TO BE A MAJOR PARTICIPANT AND CONTRIBUTOR TO MAB.

USDEL'S STATEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, IN WHICH HE SUGGESTED THAT NO MAJOR OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS BE UNDERTAKEN UNTIL GOVERNMENTS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE PROPOSALS DEVELOPED AT 1975 BELGRADE WORKSHOP, WAS ENDORSED BY SECRETARIAT.

POINTS MADE IN DEPARTMENT'S POSITION PAPER ON
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THE WATER SCIENCES WERE SUMMARIZED IN BRIEF INTERVENTION, AND SECRETARIAT WAS COMPLIMENTED ON ITS

EMPHASIS ON APPLIED RESEARCH IN THIS PROGRAM.

4. U.S. WAS ELECTED TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL FOR THE GENERAL INFORMATION PROGRAM, WHICH REPLACED FORMER UNISIST STEERING COMMITTEE, AND REELECTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL ON MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE (MAB), BUT UNFORTUNATELY NOT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL FOR THE IHP (SEE NAIROBI 13207).

III. IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE

1. CULTURAL STUDIES. OUTCOME OF EXTREMELY FRUITFUL DISCUSSION IN COMMISSION II ON UNESCO CULTURAL STUDIES AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES ARE FULLY SATISFACTORY TO U.S. INTERESTS. SPECIFICALLY, (A) COMMISSION

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AGREED WITH A POSITION ADVANCED BY US AND OTHER WESTERN DELEGATIONS THAT UNESCO PROJECT RE ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT ON THE STATUS AND SOCIAL POSITION OF THE ARTIST NEEDS FURTHER STUDY AND REFLECTION; AND (B) US PROJECT, UNDER CULTURAL STUDIES PROGRAM, ON CULTURAL CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED SOCIETIES, WHICH WAS CRITICIZED AT THE 18TH

GENCONF AND BACK-LISTED IN C/4 QUESTIONNAIRE, RECEIVED STRONG SUPPORT AND EXPRESSIONS OF COOPERATION FROM MANY DELEGATIONS, THUS PAVING WAY FOR INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS. IN FACT, THE SECRETARIAT HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO PROMOTE THIS ACTIVITY THROUGH CONTRACTS WITH NATIONAL COMMISSIONS AS A FOLLOW-UP TO US NATIONAL COMMISSION CONFERENCE ON CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETIES, HELD IN RACINE, WISCONSIN IN SEPTEMBER 1976.

2. CULTURAL COOPERATION. AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION LED BY US AND WESTERN DELEGATIONS, THE COMMISSION DECIDED TO DEFER FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF SOVIET INITIATIVE ON CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION (DOCUMENT 19 C/DR.111), WHICH MANY DELEGATIONS CONSIDERED AS SOVIET EFFORTS TO USE UNESCO AS PROPAGANDA FORUM. DISCUSSIONS REVEALED UNWILLINGNESS OF DEVELOPING UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRIES TO BECOME EMBROILED IN ESSENTIALLY AN EAST-WEST ISSUE AS STATED BY SOME LDC'S IN EXPLANATION OF THEIR ABSTENTIONS.

IV. UNESCO AND A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO)

1. THE U.S. HAD ANTICIPATED DIFFICULTIES WITH REGARD TO A GENERAL RESOLUTION ON UNESCO AND NIEO. THIS WAS BASED ON THE SECRETARIAT'S COMMITMENT TO ADOPTING THE NIEO AS THE MAIN THEME OF UNESCO FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND ITS DESIRE TO MAKE UNESCO INTO THE KEY UN AGENCY GIVING INTELLECTUAL SUBSTANCE TO THE NIEO AND GIVING GUIDANCE ON THIS TOPIC TO ALL THE REST OF THE U.N. SYSTEM. IT WAS ALSO BASED ON THE PRECEDENT OF THE 18TH GENCONF ADOPTING A RESOLUTION ON NIEO WHICH WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO U.S. FINALLY, THERE WERE SEVERAL EARLY DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FLOATING AROUND SPONSORED BY MEMBERS OF GROUP OF 77 WHICH WENT FAR BEYOND THE KIND OF LANGUAGE FOR NIEO THAT U.S. COULD LIVE WITH.

2. NIEO WAS ONE OF FIRST TOPICS PASSED TO THE DRAFTING AND NEGOTIATION GROUP (DNG). A SMALL WORKING GROUP HEADING BY AMBASSADOR VALERY OF FRANCE, PRODUCED FIRST VERSION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION WHICH US FOUND COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE. VALERY GROUP WAS ASKED TO PRODUCE SECOND DRAFT IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN CONSENSUS OF 25-MEMBER DNG. AT THE SAME TIME, U.S. DELEGATION IN NAIROBI PRESENTED A COMPLETELY NEW VERSION OF DR TO THE GROUP. DURING INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS OVER ABOUT TEN DAY PERIOD DNG CAME UP WITH CONSENSUS DRAFT ON NIEO

WHICH US COULD ACCEPT AS WELL AS MORE VOCAL RADICAL MEMBERS (FOR NIEO) OF DNG. END RESULT WAS THAT DNG DRAFT SAILED THROUGH PLENARY WITH ONLY MINOR CHANGES IN FEW PARAGRAPHS WHICH DID NOT ALTER SUBSTANCE. US WAS ABLE TO JOIN IN THIS CONSENSUS DECISION, WHILE MAKEING A LOW KEY STATEMENT ON ITS WELL KNOWN POSITION TO THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF UNGA. THE RESOLUTION PASSED BY 19TH GENCONF TENDS TO KEEP MATTERS WITHIN UNESCO'S AREAS OF COMPETENCE, BROADENED CONCEPT TO COVER A MORE EQUITABLE WORLD ORDER, MOVING POSSIBLY UNCLASSIFIED

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TOWARDS " UN NOUVEAU ORDRE HUMAIN ", AND GENERALLY AVOIDED DIVISIVE LANGUAGE. THIS WAS ONE OF FIRST EXAMPLES OF HOW WELL THE DNG COULD WORK (UNDER THE EXTREMELY ABLE LEADERSHIP OF BOISSIER-PALUN OF BENIN) AND ALSO ONE OF FIRST CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF THE QUOTE SPIRIT OF NAIROBI UNQUOTE AT WORK.

V. UNESCO AND SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE (DDII)

1. UNITED STATES HAD ALSO ANTICIPATED DIFFICULTIES WITH GENERAL CONFERENCE ACTION ON THE UN SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE. TWO POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES HAD BEEN ENVISAGED. FIRST, THE GROUP OF 77 COULD HAVE SEIZED UPON THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CRITICIZE PERFORMANCE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN CARRYING OUT ACTIONS AND REACHING TARGETS OF DDII. SECOND, THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COULD HAVE SOUGHT TO RECAST TARGETS OF DDII, SET IN 1970, TO INCORPORATE NIEO AND OTHER OBJECTIONABLE (TO U.S.) UN

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DECISION TAKEN SINCE THE SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF UNGA.

2. THE DDII ITEM WAS PASSED TO DNG TOGETHER WITH NIEO. VALERY WORKING GROUP ALSO PREPARED THIS DRAFT RESOLUTION, WHICH IN VARIOUS DRAFT STAGES DEVELOPED GENERAL CONSENSUS SUPPORT INCLUDING U.S. THIS DR ALSO SAILED THROUGH PLENARY WITH NO CHANGES. FINAL VERSION TREATED TOPICS IN UNESCO'S AREAS OF COMPETENCE, MENTIONED SHORTCOMINGS IN TARGETS AND URGED BOTH DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO MAKE GREATER EFFORTS, AND -- INSTEAD OF SEEKING TO REFORMULATE DDII TARGETS -- BEGAN LOOKING FORWARD TO DD III, WITH EMPHASIS ON SOCIO-CULTURAL-ECONOMIC MATTERS. THIS WAS SECOND EXAMPLE OF HOW WELL DNG COULD TAKE SENSITIVE ITEM AND FIND COMMON GROUND WHICH ALL MEMBERS COULD SUPPORT.

VI. UNESCO AND STATUS OF WOMEN

1. THE GENERAL CONFERENCE UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY THE UNITED STATES, PHILIPPINES AND MEXICO CONCERNING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE STATUS OF WOMEN, AND IN THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN ALL COUNTRIES. UNESCO WITH ITS SPECIAL COMPETENCE IN EDUCATION, SOCIAL SCIENCE, CULTURE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMUNICATIONS HAS IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAKE IN IMPROVING THE STATUS OF WOMEN, IN LESSENING INEQUALITIES OF TREATMENT WHICH WOMEN RECEIVE, AND IN INCREASING THE PARTICIPATION BY WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS -- BOTH AS CONTRIBUTORS AND BENEFICIARIES.

2. THE US TOOK THE LEAD IN THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE IN GETTING A UNANIMOUS DECISION ADOPTED FOR A BROAD POLICY STATEMENT AND ON GUIDANCE FOR A PROGRAM OF ACTION BY UNESCO OVER THE COMING YEARS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS FACING WOMEN IN BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE RESOLUTION ON WOMEN AT THE 19TH GENERAL

CONFERENCE -- ALSO ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY -- GIVES IMPORTANT FOLLOW-UP ATTENTION TO THE PRIOR RESOLUTION. IT CALLS ON UNESCO TO LAUNCH SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR WOMEN AND, PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT CALLS FOR ALL PROJECTS TO ADDRESS HOW THE ACTIVITY IS EXPECTED TO AFFECT WOMEN AS BOTH PARTICIPANTS AND BENEFICIARIES. THIS IS TO BE DONE THROUGH THE INCLUSION OF IMPACT STATEMENTS ON WOMEN FOR ALL PROJECT DOCUMENTS. THIS SHOULD DO MUCH TO SENSITIZE UNESCO TO ANALYZE THE EFFECT ITS ACTIONS HAVE ON WOMEN. IT IS IN LINE WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF THE PERCY AMENDMENT TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION FOR BOTH THE U.S. BILATERAL PROGRAMS AND FOR MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES TO ADDRESS THE STATUS AND APTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT. THE RESOLUTION ALSO CALLS FOR AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS TO BE USED TO ASSIST UNESCO IN ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF WOMEN.

VII. UNESCO AND THE LEAST DEVELOPED AMONG THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A CONCERN RUNNING THROUGH SEVERAL OF THE PROGRAM COMMISSIONS HAD TO DO WITH THE NEEDS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. A DRAFT RESOLUTION WITH NUMEROUS CO-SPONSORS, AND HAVING US SUPPORT, WAS PASSED BY PLENARY WHICH GIVES BROAD POLICY GUIDANCE TO THE SECRETARIAT TO EMPHASIZE THE NEEDS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE CURRENT AND FUTURE BIENNIUMS. THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS IDENTIFIED 28 UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD WHICH SHOULD HAVE SPECIAL ATTENTION AND SUPPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. UNESCO OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS HAS UNDERTAKEN A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES, MAINLY IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, IN FAVOR OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THERE WAS A GENERAL FEELING IN MOST DELEGATIONS, AND SHARED BY THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT, THAT UNESCO COULD AND SHOULD DO MUCH MORE FOR THESE COUNTRIES DURING THE COMING BIENNIUM AND CONTINUING THROUGHOUT THE COMING SIX YEAR MEDIUM-TERM PLAN.

VIII. DECENTRALIZATION OF UNESCO OPERATIONS

1. UNESCO HAS ESTABLISHED A NETWORK OF REGIONAL OFFICES AND CENTERS LOCATED ON EVERY CONTINENT. THE STAFFS IN THESE OFFICES COMPRISE AN IMPORTANT BRIDGE BETWEEN HEADQUARTERS, ON ONE HAND, WHICH IS OFTEN FOCUSED ON WORLDWIDE PROBLEMS AND WHICH

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SOMETIMES HAS AN EXCESSIVE THEORETICAL ORIENTATION, AND MEMBER STATES ON THE OTHER HAND, WITH THEIR SPECIAL AND SOMETIMES UNIQUE AND PRAGMATIC NEEDS. AS THE CAPACITIES OF THESE OFFICES HAVE INCREASED, MEMBER STATES HAVE BEEN DESIROUS OF SEEING THESE REGIONAL CENTERS HAVING MORE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY THAN IN THE PAST, FOR MAKING DECISIONS ON UNESCO PROJECTS IN THEIR COUNTRIES AND IN THE REGION. THERE WAS OVERWHELMING SUPPORT BY DELEGATES AT THE CONFERENCE, THAT THESE REGIONAL OFFICES AND CENTERS SHOULD BE FURTHER REINFORCED DURING THE COMING YEARS. THIS SHOULD DO MUCH TO INCREASE BOTH THE EFFECTIVENESS AND THE RELEVANCY OF UNESCO'S MANY OPERATIONS WHICH TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE OF PARIS. THIS WAS FINALLY ACCEPTED BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND HIS HEADQUARTERS STAFF, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY.

IX. ASSESSMENT OF UNESCO'S PROGRAMS

DURING THE PAST YEAR THERE HAS BEEN A GROWING CONVICTION ON THE PART OF ALL MEMBER STATES THAT UNESCO MUST DO BETTER AT ASSESSING THE PROGRESS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS MANY PROGRAMS. THE UNITED STATES AND MANY

LIKE-MINDED STATES (E.G. BRAZIL, EGYPT, INDIA,
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PHILIPPINES, CANADA, SWEDEN AND MANY MANY OTHERS)
HAVE BEEN ADDRESSING THIS ISSUE AT PRIOR GENERAL
CONFERENCES AND AT THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETINGS OF UNESCO'S
EXECUTIVE BOARD. THIS GENERAL CONFERENCE HAS EMPHASIZED
THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ASSESSMENT FUNCTIONS FOR PROPER
MANAGEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION. THE US WORKED HARD TO
GET SPECIFIC LANGUAGE AND GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT IN
RESOLUTIONS WHICH CALL ON THE SECRETARIAT TO GIVE
SPECIAL ATTENTION TO DEVELOPING AND APPLYING THE
METHODS BY WHICH THE MANAGERS OF THE SECRETARIAT AND
THE MEMBERS OF UNESCO'S GOVERNING BODIES CAN KNOW WHAT
PROGRESS IS BEING MADE, AND WHY -- AND ALSO WHAT
PROBLEMS ARE BEING ENCOUNTERED, AND WHY. THE
SECRETARIAT WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPIER WITHOUT SUCH
LANGUAGE, HOWEVER, THE US OBTAINED SUCH BROAD SUPPORT
FROM BOTH DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THAT
SECRETARIAT COULD NOT EASILY OPPOSE ITS INCLUSION.

X. MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR 1977-1978
(DOCUMENT 19 C/4)

1. AFTER TRYING SINCE THE 16TH GENERAL CONFERENCE,
UNESCO NOW HAS A SIX-YEAR MEDIUM-TERM PLAN WHICH WAS
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AT 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE. THE
U.S. AND OTHER LIKE-MINDED STATES HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY
URGING UNESCO TOWARDS PLANNING BY OBJECTIVES SINCE
17TH GENERAL CONFERENCE. A BIG STEP FORWARD WAS MADE
IN 18 C/4 DOCUMENT WHICH LAID OUT PROPOSED OBJECTIVES
FOR NEXT SIX YEAR PLAN. THE 19 C/4 FLESHED THIS OUT.
UNESCO NOW HAS A PLANNING FRAMEWORK OF FOUR PROBLEM
AREAS, TEN PROBLEMS AND FORTY-FOUR OBJECTIVES. THIS
SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS FURTHER CONCENTRATION OF
THE PROGRAM IN HIGH PRIORITY AREAS, SHOULD LEAD TOWARDS
A BETTER SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT BY OBJECTIVES, SHOULD HELP
IN JOB OF ASSESSING PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS, AND SHOULD
ASSIST IN FURTHER REFINING THE PROGRAM AT FUTURE
SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AND EXECUTIVE BOARD.

2. PROVISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR ADJUSTMENTS TO BE MADE
TO PLANNING OBJECTIVES DURING NEXT FEW YEARS BASED ON
FURTHER EVOLUTION OF WORLD PROBLEMS, ON CONTINUING
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ANALYSES OF WHAT UNESCO COULD BEST CONTRIBUTE, AND ON
EXPERIENCES GAINED IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM. THE
ADOPTION OF THE 19 C/4 DOCUMENT AND OF THE METHOD-
OLOGY FOR REVIEW AND REFINEMENT OF FUTURE C/4 AND C/5
DOCUMENTS SHOULD CONTRIBUTE MUCH TO INCREASING UNESCO'S
EFFECTIVENESS, RELEVANCY AND IMPACT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS36715
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761254/aaaabujg.tel
Line Count: 716
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 14
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE: SUMMARY WRAP UP OF IMPORTANT PROGRAM ISSUES SUMMARY: THE PURPOSE OF THIS CABLE IS TO PROVIDE
TAGS: OCON, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006